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ONE HUNDRED EIGHTH CONGRESS

Congress of the United States

House of Representatives

COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY

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September 7, 2004

JOHN CONYERS, JR., Michigan
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The Honorable F. James Sensenbrenner, Jr.
Chairman
Committee on the Judiciary
U.S. House of Representatives
2138 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Lamar Smith
Chairman
Subcommittee on Courts, the Internet, and
Intellectual Property
U.S. House of Representatives
B-351-A Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Sensenbrenner and Chairman Smith:

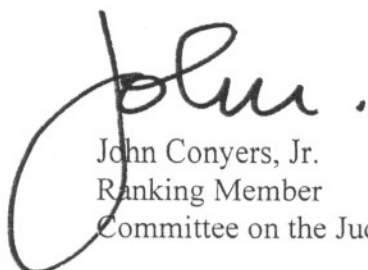
We understand that you are considering amending our bipartisan anti-piracy bill, H.R. 4077, at full Committee markup to add a controversial bill, H.R. 4586, and are writing to ask that you reconsider your decision.

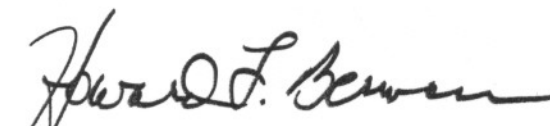
We have worked in bipartisan fashion for the past year not only to draft the underlying anti-piracy bill but also to reach agreements on some of its more complicated provisions. It is troubling that, now that the bill is virtually finalized, you are contemplating on a unilateral basis to add the controversial and unrelated language to the bill. While H.R. 4077 will be a non-controversial initiative, H.R. 4586 retains significant opposition from Members and industry and could jeopardize the passage of H.R. 4077.

It goes without saying that combining the two proposals would be a significant setback in our long-standing efforts to work together on intellectual property legislation. Furthermore, the Committee already has reported H.R. 4586, so our consideration of it would be redundant and a waste of the Members' time.

We ask that you take our request into consideration and allow the anti-piracy bill to move unscathed.

Sincerely,


John Conyers, Jr.
Ranking Member
Committee on the Judiciary


Howard L. Berman
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Courts, the
Internet, and Intellectual Property